

Wake Up!

I. Scripture: Romans 13:11-14

A. Before 1 Corinthians and after Acts in the NT

II. Current Context

A. We have been listening to politicians, professors, and philosophers; we need a prophet.

B. Problems in the Church:

Humanists:

1. They take God out of religion.
2. No miracles, no divine, no power, no real impact.
3. Shifted focus to man, not God.
4. What God calls wickedness, we call weakness.
5. What God calls sin, we declare as identity.
6. What God calls us from, humanists claim we are stuck in.
7. You do not hear testimonies ...of radical conversion.
8. ...powerful transformation.
9. ...deliverance. ...victory.
10. It does away with Hell, diminishes the glory of God, and dilutes the Gospel into a feel good "nicety".
11. It ignore sin, hides from conviction, and disregards the plain truth of Scripture.

12. It scurries after self helps, is mesmerized by intellect, and has a craving for eloquent language, but never comes to a knowledge of the truth!
13. It breaks no chains, It does not make a way in the wilderness, It sets no captives free.
13. It does not embrace truth, face the light, or submit to the Authority of God.
14. It is powerless and has a strangle hold on many churches and leaders.
15. They are often blind to its effects as it waxes eloquent about its own existence.
16. It sounds spiritual, but it is dead.
17. It seems moral, but it is polluted.
18. It entices the mind, but leaves the spirit empty.

Institutionalized:

1. Those who are preoccupied with institutional viability.
2. They are more concerned w/ their comforts than the conversion of the lost.
3. More consumed with their preferences, than the presence of God.
4. Defending every action of their pastor, church, or denomination.

5. They are less concerned about Biblical truth than they are the name on their church sign.
6. Their cry is to fill the seats at all costs; if the Gospel is a stumbling block, then remove it.
7. They reject prophets w/out evaluation because the love the forms and fellowship of the institutional church more than rivers of living water flowing in their lives.
8. They have been consumed for so long trying to get their way, play politics, or push the establishment of their own agenda, that they have forgotten that the bride of Christ can not play the harlot!
9. We have emphasized programs, propaganda, and pep rally like services, that we have lost real passion and forgotten what real power looks like.
10. Our people are so accustomed to being served, we have forgotten that we are servants of Christ.
11. Like Samson, many churches, have been lulled to sleep by Delilah and lost their power as the promises of God have

- been cut from us!
12. We refuse to think beyond our current forms.
13. We resist the Holy Spirit's leading to fill new wine skins, we are too attached to our old ones.
14. We are so loyal to our fellowship, that we have betrayed the soon returning Christ.
15. We have zealously defended the writing above our doors that I pray many of us will realize says "Ichabod" [the Glory has departed].
16. Many are being stirred from their slumber and are becoming aware that there is more than an institution to propagate, there is a mission to fulfill, there is a God who wants to send His glory again!
17. We are so busy running our Public Relations b/c we want ppl to like the church, that we haven't stopped to ask whether anyone still loves Jesus.

Libertines:

1. Warns of them: Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet

- and sweet for bitter!”
2. They muddy the water of moral clarity.
 3. They redefine terms to fit their own definitions.
 4. They create morality in their image.
 5. Their faith is really an idol of themselves that they expect others to bow to.
 6. Like the scribes Jesus rebuked, they are consumed with moral loop holes and special moral exemptions.
 7. Their morality is palatable to the world, but not to God.
 8. Abortion is considered a woman’s right to choose (as if any mother has a right to choose to end the life of their child).
 9. Marriage is no longer sacred. Government gets to define it. The holy is shunned for trending ethics.
 10. Profane speech. “Freedom in entertainment.” Alcohol
 11. Tolerance is proclaimed as the virtue of the day... unless you don’t share it.
 12. A spoonful of sugar has replaced any medicine. (Poison)

IV. End Times

- A. Humanists, Institutionalists,

Libertines do not speak of Jesus return.

- B. The subject is often neglected b/c we either...

1. ...ignore it altogether or...
2. ...get distracted by insignificant details and interpretations.

- C. We are living in “perilous” times.

1. This year is not necessarily worse than previous years or, God willing, future years.
2. But creation groans for the return of the Creator.
3. He is coming again.

- D. Romans 8:20-22 “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”

1. “End Times”
2. Jesus is coming “soon.”

- E. Sleep vs Awake

1. Be vigilant.
2. Ephesians: Awaken, thou that sleepest!
3. Physical death= sleep/rest.

4. Being alert and sober minded.

- F. v. 11 “Besides this you know the time, that *the hour has come for you to wake from sleep*. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

- G. **Pastoral Pause:** Ever wondered why some of the greatest revivals in US history were called “Great Awakenings”?

1. Conscious to the reality of a short time left.
2. Actively responding to this truth. (Change)

- H. **Point:** Some would say that since Jesus’ return is imminent, that we should not expect another awakening.

1. No, we should go home and set our house in order.
2. We should consecrate ourselves anew.
3. We should go back out into the highway & hedges and compel ppl to come to the marriage feast of the lamb.

- V. Response:

- A. v. 12a “The night is far gone; the day is at hand...”

- #1. v. 12b “So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

1. You cannot put on the

armor w/out taking off the works of darkness!

2. You cannot wear both sets of clothing.
3. You cannot remain in fellowship with both darkness and light.
4. You cannot fraternize with sin and claim righteousness.
5. **Note:** We need a wardrobe change!
6. May God raise up some men who **cast off the works of darkness!**
7. May the Spirit empower some women who will...
8. May the presence of Christ fill some young ppl who will...
9. ...and **put on the armor of light.**
10. Doing battle with the Devil.

- #2. v. 13 “Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

1. Positive: walk properly in the light.
2. Negatively: Not in orgie/drunkenness; sexual immorality/sensuality; quarreling/jealousy.
3. Some ppl glory in their abstinence of the first four

and bow down to the last
two.

4. Do not walk in these things!
5. If you are... stop!
6. Doctrine matters, but with
out a changed life its
meaningless!

#3. v. 14 “But put on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and make no
provision for the flesh, to
gratify its desires.”

1. Cast off/ put on (wardrobe)
2. Walk properly (lifestyle)
3. Climaxes w/ Jesus!
4. Humanistists need Jesus.
5. Institutionalists need Jesus.
6. Libertines need Jesus.
7. Anything that does not
climax with Jesus is antic
climatic and anti Christ!
8. Whatever ends in my
desires is death, but
whoever puts on Christ
embraces life!
9. Orthodoxy is not enough.
10. Walking properly is not
enough!
11. Membership in a church is
not enough!
12. Put on Christ!

VI. Conclusion

Response: